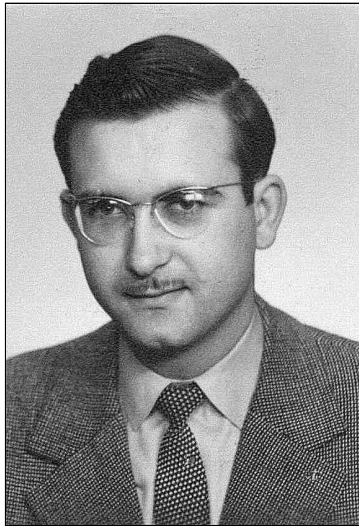


JOHN JEREMIC: ACCOUNTANCY & TYPING TEACHER, 1967-1971



Jovan "John" Jeremic was born in 1938 in Nis, Niš-Pantelej, Nišava, Serbia. His parents were Petar Jeremic and Natalija Rakic. The Jeremic ancestry goes back to Jovan Jeremic from Jablanica, Serbia, who died in 1918 fighting Germans in WWI. The Rakic ancestry goes back to Bora Rakic pre 1900 in Moravac, Aleksinac, Nišava, Serbia. Petar and Natalija married in the mid 1930s and raised three children: Jovan, Marija, and Magdalena. It appears that the family were separated during the war and Jovan ended up in Germany, because he came to Australia in 1960 under the Australian German Migration Agreement - he was a single man with no children.

Jovan's migration papers state that had completed six years of secondary schooling and three years as an apprentice fitter. He was a Seventh-day Adventist and had also completed two years of study at 'university level' at a theological seminary.

Jovan's initial settlement in Australia has not been traced but it was most likely in New South Wales. In 1960 he nominated his sister Dragica Jeremic for migration to Australia – details not available – and he might have eventually sponsored his whole family as they ended up settling in Ararat, Victoria. (Their migration details are also not traced.)

Jovan would have had to work for two years under the Immigration Department's direction and after that he was free to go his own way, and part of that choice was to enroll for commerce studies at the Seventh-day Adventist's Avondale College in Cooranbong, New South Wales. It was established in the late 1800s as the "Australasian Missionary College" offering courses in teaching, business, and biblical and mission studies. In 1962 it was accepted as a College of Advanced Education and taught a Diploma of Commerce course, recognized by the Australian Society of Accountants. This is most likely where Jeremic obtained his Diploma of Accounting.



Jovan "John" Jeremic moved to Victoria in the mid to late 1960s - by 1967 there was a John Jeremic living in Newmarket (Melbourne) and working as fitter. John Jeremic started as a teacher at St Albans High School in 1967 with qualifications listed as Diploma of Accounting and a Diploma of Theology (Yugoslavia). He taught accounting and typing. St Albans High School was possibly his first appointment as a teacher, and it would have been interesting to join a team of about sixty teachers, three support staff, and four visiting religious staff. In 1968 he was the Form Teacher for Form 3E, which was a biggish class of over 30 students but representing a small portion of the 1,000 or so students at the school that year. Jeremic was still at St Albans in 1971, but it is not clear when he left as there are some school

magazines missing from this time and teachers' names at not included in some editions.

A few students still remember Jeremic from the early 1970s. Phillip Cini writes: *"I recall he taught our class in Form 1 History (European) and spoke with an accent. He had a jovial character. A friend and I offered to wash his car for pocket money during lunch recess. I*



remember it being 1971. A short while later he traded the old car for a brand new XY Falcon wagon. He said he got good money for his trade in as we did a good job washing it!"

Some of his accounting and typing students describe him as a good teacher though an unusual character. Perhaps it was an unusual decade, as Bruce Alcorn has described in his Silver Jubilee review:

"The decade of the Seventies was marked by vitality, innovation and adaption and adjustment to change. Out with insistence upon the wearing of the school uniform, though the wearing of some distinguishing feature of school identification has been repeatedly decreed, in with curriculum innovation, out with term examinations compulsory at all levels and in with a wide range of electives."



John Jeremic and Form 3E St Albans High School 1968.



Mr McInerney and staff 1968 - John Jeremic in last row four from left.

Jeremic may have retired from teaching not long after his St Albans stint. Between 1977 and 1980 he was living in Wattle Park and his occupation was listed as an accountant and later as a

businessman. He probably married twice, and one of his wives was probably Marilyn Patricia, a nurse, as they were together in Wattle Park in the late 1970s. Alex Stojkovic, a former student, remembers Jeremic's wedding photo with his new bride appearing in one of the local newspapers, either in the Sunshine Advocate or the Keilor Messenger, probably in the early 1970s.



John Jeremic must have been a successful businessman as he became a philanthropist and raised funds for many local and overseas causes, possibly as an evangelical missionary working through Seventh-day Adventist networks. He received several honorary doctorates and awards as a consequence of his work and generosity, and thus became known as "Dr John Jeremic". He supported hospitals, medical centres, universities, churches and schools in P.N.G, Kenya and Australia. Some books have been written acknowledging his work, including Lee Dunstan's "Africa They Were There" (Signs Publishing Company 2009). One of the causes he supported was his old NSW college. In 1997 the Avondale College celebrated its centenary and a \$2.3m extension to its library which was to be called the "Jeremic Library" in honour of their former student who was the principal donor in the

foundation's five-year-long fundraising drive.

Dr John Jeremic, aged 76, passed away suddenly in November 2014 outside his Eastern Suburbs home in Melbourne. The notice about the funeral service states his family included children Natalee and Clamor, John and Dana, Jennifer and Andy. Grandchildren Melissa, Mia, Casper and Anton. Nephew: Nicholas. Niece: Jovanka and Sam. Great nephews Simon, Jason and Benjamin. Brother and Sister-in-law Radomir and Milica. Extended family Darko, Natasa, Ivana and Filip.

The funeral service for his passing was held at Wantirna Church, Mountain Highway, Wantirna:

"Dr John's extensive life achievements were driven by his love for God and his tremendous passion to leave the world a better place than when he arrived. His numerous accolades, qualifications, honorary doctorates and awards reflect his social ingenuity and perpetual philanthropy. Dr John Jeremic invited the rich and famous to fund his numerous inter-continental projects serving the destitute, contributing where he could. As a result of Dr John's efforts, hospitals, medical centres, universities, churches and schools in the Jeremic name operate and serve the people of P.N.G, Kenya and Australia. Dr John Jeremic has visited in excess of 90 countries, pursuing education and his various philanthropic causes. He authored several books, ran multiple evangelistic crusades, established numerous Christian outreach networks and organizations with unmatched determination chasing the numerous goals that well exceeded his life. Dr John would always say he was working for God first and secondly he was working for his children and grandchildren."

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